

Manitoba Firearm Accidents Report

**Hunting and Non-Hunting
1984**

**Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program**

**Manitoba
Natural Resources**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please contact us at 1495 St. James Street, or phone 945-6644.

SUMMARY

In this summary, accidents are recorded in three categories.

- (1) Accidents involving persons in pursuit of game during an open season.
- (2) Accidents involving persons in pursuit of non-game species and illegal hunting. Rabbits are considered as non-game species.
- (3) Non-hunting accidents.

During the 1984 calendar year 16 persons suffered injuries from the careless handling of firearms. Four of these accidents were self inflicted. Two of the 16 were fatal and occurred during a licenced open season.

The 16 accidents was the lowest recorded in a calendar year since the Program began in 1964. The previous low was in 1983 when 20 was recorded. The decline was due to a decrease in non-hunting accidents.

In 13 of the 16 accidents the shooter was hunting some type of bird or animal. 8 of the 13 involved a licenced hunter in pursuit of game during an open season. This was an increase from 1983 when 8 hunting related accidents occurred with 5 of the 8 happening during the licenced open season.

The average age of shooters causing accidents in 1984 was 26.1 years. This was a decrease from 1983 when the average age was 27.6.

Eleven of the 16 accidents occurred at a distance of less than 10 yards. Two accidents during the deer season were classified as "victim mistaken for game". In both instances the victim was wearing white outer wear with a blaze orange hat. One of the two was fatal.

4,150 students were certified in 1984. Manitoba Volunteer Instructors have now trained 94,713 students since the Program began in 1964. Seven graduates of a Hunter Safety Program were involved in the 16 accidents recorded in 1984. 4 of the 7 were during an open season, one while hunting a non-game species and 2 were non-hunting related.



CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Victim out of sight of shooter.	2	1
Victim moved into line of fire.	0	1
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	1	1
Victim mistaken for game.	2	3
Shooter stumbled and fell.	0	2
Using firearm as club	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object.	3	1
Loaded firearm in vehicle	2	3
Firearm fell from insecure rest.	0	1
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".	4	2
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.	0	0
Loading.	0	0
Unloading.	1	0
Defective firearm.	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home.	4	1
Accidental discharge.	0	0
Ricochet.	1	0
Unknown.	0	0
	20	16

SYNOPSIS OF 1984 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

AS COMPARED TO 1983

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Total Number of Accidents	20	16
Fatal	5	2
Non-Fatal	15	14
Hunting Legally During Regular Season	5	8
Fatal	1	2
Non-Fatal	4	6
Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegally		
Hunting	3	5
Fatal	1	0
Non-Fatal	2	5
Non-Hunting Accidents	12	3
Fatal in the home	2	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	1	0
Non-Fatal in the home	3	1
Non-Fatal outside the home	6	2
Shooter Unknown	1	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-Fatal	1	1
Accidents Involving Shooter 18 years and Under	7	4
All Types of Hunting	2	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-Fatal	2	2
Non-Hunting	5	2
Fatal	2	0
Non-Fatal	3	2

There were 7 accidents involving Treaty Indians, as compared to 15 in 1983. Treaty Indians are not required to obtain a licence to hunt and therefore, are not required to take the Hunter Safety Training and are not included in this accident summary. There was 1 fatality.

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	8	4
Fatal	1	0
Non-Fatal	7	4
Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	6	5
Fatal	3	1
Non-Fatal	3	4
Shotgun	5	5
Fatal	0	1
Non-Fatal	5	4
Hand Gun	1	1
Fatal	1	0
Non-Fatal	0	1
Pellet Gun	0	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-Fatal	0	1
Unknown	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-Fatal	0	0

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
0 to 10 yards	13	11
10 to 50 yards	1	0
50 to 100 yards	3	1
over 100 yards	2	4
Distance Unknown	1	0

OCCURRENCES

* Indicates a Fatal

<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	2**	0
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	2*	1*
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	0	3
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	5*	0
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	6*	8*
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	3	4
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	2	0
Unknown	0	0

By Day

Sunday	3**	2
Monday	2	5**
Tuesday	1*	0
Wednesday	1	2
Thursday	4	5
Friday	6**	1
Saturday	3	1

By Month

January	0	0
February	2**	0
March	0	2
April	0	1
May	0	1
June	1	0
July	1	2
August	3	0
September	3*	2
October	6*	3*
November	3*	5*
December	1	0

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL	SELF-INFLECTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Thursday March 1 4:20 p.m.	4	no	no	22 cal rifle	0-10 yds.	non-hunting	The Shooter found a 22 cartridge in a desk drawer and loaded it into a rifle. While playing with the rifle it discharged striking his 2 year old brother in the stomach.
Thursday March 8 1:30 p.m.	18	no	yes	177 cal pellet pistol	0-10 yds.	non-hunting	The Shooter was playing with a pistol and accidentally squeezed the trigger. It discharged into his left hand.
Thursday April 26 10:00 a.m.	63	no	no	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds.	trapping	The Shooter and his partner were travelling by canoe while trapping. The Shooter was removing the shotgun by the barrel from the canoe and the shotgun discharged. The blast struck him in the elbow almost severing his left arm. His partner who was standing behind him was struck by pellets in the face and neck area.
Thursday May 3 6:00 p.m.	17	no	no	22 cal rifle	0-10 yds.	birds	The shooter and the victim had returned to their vehicle after hunting. While placing his rifle on the vehicle hood the rifle discharged striking the victim in the lower abdomen.

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL	SELF INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday July 9 8:30 p.m.	13	no	no	22 cal rifle	0-10 yds.	birds	Four boys were out shooting at birds around a barn. They were passing the rifle back and forth taking turns. Two of the boys became engaged in a pushing match to see who got the rifle when it discharged striking the victim who was walking away.
Sunday July 15 3:50 p.m.	26	no	no	22 cal rifle	100 yds. or more.	gophers	The victim who was fishing was struck in the right shoulder by a 22 cal. bullet. The shooter was 3/4 of a mile away on the other side of a hill. He was unaware that he had shot the victim. He was the only one that was located in the area that was shooting.
Friday Sept. 7 5:30 p.m.	22	no	no	30-30 cal rifle	0-10 yds.	bear	Both the shooter and the victim were returning from target shooting in the bush when they encountered a bear. The shooter fired at the bear and when he went to fire a second shot the victim stepped in front of him. The victim received a gun shot wound to the right arm.
Thursday Sept. 27 6:30 p.m.	21	no	yes	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds.	ducks	The shooter had placed his shotgun in the back of his vehicle. The firearm fell over, discharging in the process. The shooter received pellet wounds to his right arm.

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL	SELF-INFLECTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Friday Oct. 5 4:30 p.m.	22	no	no	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds.	geese	Two hunters were walking down a railway track returning to their vehicle after goose hunting. The shooter stumbled over a rail while unloading his shotgun. The firearm discharged striking the victim in the heel.
Monday Oct. 8 8:00 p.m.	34	yes	no	12 gauge shotgun	50 yds. or more	geese	Two hunters who had been separated for over an hour were returning to their vehicle after dark. The shooter heard a sudden noise from some bush and shot instinctively towards it thinking it was a bear. He later found he had shot his partner.
Saturday Oct. 13 10:00 a.m.	unknown	no	no	shotgun	100 yds. or more	geese	Victim was standing in tall grass along a drainage ditch. A flock of geese landed between him and the shooter who was approximately 120 yards opposite to him. The victim was struck by pellets from the shooter who had fired at the geese.
Monday Nov. 19 5:00 p.m.	30	no	yes	30.06 cal rifle	0-10 yds.	deer	The shooter was heading back to camp after deer hunting. He tripped and fell discharging his rifle into the top portion of his left foot.

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL	SELF-DEFLECTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday Nov. 19 5:15 p.m.	25	no	yes	22 cal revolver	0-10 yds.	rabbits	Shooter was leaving his home to shoot rabbits for dog food. As he was pushing his three wheel motor-cycle out of his garage, the revolver fell from his pocket and discharged upon hitting the ground. He was struck in the shoulder by the bullet.
Monday Nov. 26 7:45 a.m.	33	yes	no	30.06 cal rifle	100 yds. or more	deer	The victim who was wearing white hunting attire and a blaze orange hat was walking in a field against the bush. The green ear flaps on his hat had been flipped up and his whites were soiled. Visibility was poor due to a heavy snow fall, strong winds and fog. Victim was shot in the stomach area.
Wednesday Nov. 28 10:30 a.m.	42	no	no	30-30 cal rifle	0-10 yds.	deer	The shooter was unloading his rifle outside his vehicle before entering it. The trigger caught on his mitt and the rifle discharged striking his companion in his right foot.
Wednesday Nov. 28 4:45 p.m.	22	no	no	.270 cal rifle	100 yds. or more	deer	Accident happened in open terrain and victim should have been in full sight of shooter. Both were wearing whites and orange blaze hats. Victim received gun shot wound to the right arm.